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"To sum up the whole matter in a single sentence : It is held that bird migration is a habit evolved by education and inheritance which owe their origin and perpetuation to winter with its failure of food."

W. E. R.

Ovogenesis in Tunicates.—Dr. F. W. Bancroft has published (*Bulletin of the Mus. of Comp. Zool.*, Vol. XXXV, No. 4, 1899) an extended account of his studies on the ovogenesis of *Distaplia occidentalis*.

In general, the development of the gonads and their ducts resembles that found in *Perephora*, *Clavelina*, and *Ciona*.

The most significant difference consists in the fact that the fundamen-
ment of the ovotestis is present in the youngest stages in *Distaplia*, whereas in the other species it appears quite late in ontogeny.

To the question which type of ovary is more primitive, that represented by *Clavelina*, where there are two separate germinative epithelia, or that found in *Distaplia* with but a single such epithelium, the author is inclined to give the distinction to the *Distaplia* type, since here it occurs in a smaller and simpler species, and is itself simpler.

Dr. Bancroft goes at length into the question of the origin and fate of the test cells, discussing the whole matter in the light of the more recent statements by Davidoff and Salensky, based on their observations on *Distaplia magnilarva*. He does not confirm the results of these authors, and as his studies pertained to a species very closely related to the one studied by them; and, furthermore, as he had the opportunity, through the great courtesy of Professor Salensky, to examine slides of *D. magnilarva*, it would seem that his critical findings should be conclusive on this much discussed problem.

The function of these cells, the author believes, is to furnish nutriment to the growing ovum. He concludes that they are particularly active in this capacity in the early stages of the growth of the ovum, while the nucleus exerts its principal activity in the later stages in converting this nutritive material into yolk.

The germinative vesicle diminishes in size gradually and continuously with the increase in quantity of yolk in the ovum.

W. E. R.

Reproduction of Amœba.—In addition to the common and recurring bipartite division of *Amœba proteus*, Scheel¹ has described a

¹ Scheel, C. Beiträge zur Fortpflanzung der Amœben, *Festschrift zum siebenzigsten Geburtstag von Carl von Kupffer*, pp. 569–580, Pl. LI. Jena, 1899.